

**College of Arts and Sciences  
Assembly Meeting  
Minutes September 22, 2009  
Elliot Hall, Room 242**

**Members present:** *Berven, D., Berven, K., Clason, Connery, Dvir, Eis, Estes, Evans, Fails, Farrugia, Grossman, Hawkins, Herold, Lombardo, Mabee, Miller, Navin, Ostergaard, Purcell, Roth, Schweitzer, Stamps, Stoffan, Williams, Wood, Wright*

**Ex-Officio present:** *Robby Stewart, Kathy Moore, Ron Sudol*

**Guests present:** *Ken Elder, Henri Gooren, Stacey Hahn, Cindy Sifonis,*

**Members absent:** *Khattree, Felton, Rosenthal, Sanders*

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 P.M.

**2. Appointment of Secretary and Parliamentarian**

The motion was made and approved to appoint Secretary, Dikka Berven, and Parliamentarian, Jerry Grossman.

**3. Approval of Minutes, Meeting of April 14, 2009**

The minutes of the meeting of April 14, 2009 were approved.

**4. Election to the Executive Committee (two vacancies):**

The following members were elected to the CAS Executive Committee:

Mathematics/Science 2009-2011 – Keith Berven, *Biological Sciences*

Humanities 2009-2011 – George Stoffan, *Music, Theatre and Dance*

Continuing members:

Language/Literature 2008-2010 – Chris Clason, *Modern Languages and Literatures*

Social Science 2008-2010 – Richard Stamps, *Sociology and Anthropology*

At large 2008-2010 – Andrea Eis, *Art and Art History*

**5. Approval of Recommended Members for Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) 2009-2011**

The following recommended members were approved for the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) 2009-2011:

Edith Chopin, *Chemistry* (Mathematics/Science)

Diane Hartmus, *Political Science* (Social Science)

Jessica Payette, *Music, Theatre and Dance* (Humanities)

Approval of chair for Graduate Studies Committee: Rob Kushler

Continuing members:

Kathy Battles, *Communication and Journalism* (At Large)

Jeffrey Insko, *English* (Language/Literature)

Rob Kushler, *Mathematics and Statistics* (At Large)

## **6. Approval of Recommended Members for the Committee on Instruction (COI) 2009-2011**

The following recommended members were approved for the Committee on Instruction (COI) 2009-2011:

Andrea Knutson, *English* (Language/Literature)

Lori Ostergaard, *Writing and Rhetoric* (At Large)

Keith Williams, *Psychology* (Social Sciences)

Approval of chair for Committee on Instruction: Don Matthews

Continuing Members:

Anne Hitt, *Biological Sciences* (Mathematics/Science)

Don Matthews, *History* (At Large)

Fritz McDonald, *Philosophy* (Humanities)

## **7. Approval of Recommended Members for the Elections Committee 2009-2012**

The following recommended members were approved for the Elections Committee 2009-2012:

Kevin Laam, *English* (Language/Literature)

Scott Smith, *Sociology and Anthropology* 2008-2011 (Social Science), replacement for Abdi Kusow

Continuing member:

Wen Zhang, chair, *Mathematics and Statistics* 2007-2010 (Mathematics/Science)

## **8. College Updates**

Dean Sudol announced that the next CAS Assembly meeting would be the Open Meeting for all CAS faculty members.

Dean Sudol passed around a listing of all the student scholar recipients of the Presidential, Distinguished and Talented awards/scholarships. The listing is by College and School, and he observed that the CAS had done extremely well, with more than half of the Presidential scholarships in the College of Arts and Sciences.

## 9. CAS Theme Ad Hoc Committee

Interim Associate Dean Robby Stewart announced the CAS themes for the next four years, as follows: 2009/10 Religion and Society; 2010/11 Frontiers and Borders; 2011/12 Water; 2012/2013 Creative and Critical Thinking.

## 10. Proposal for a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies, *first reading*

A motion to accept the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies (BALS) proposal, first reading.

Dean Sudol indicated that the proposed BALS has been in the works for two years. He introduced Associate Dean Kathy Moore to explain the proposal and field questions. BALS committee members Ken Elder, Stacey Hahn and Cynthia Sifonis were present as well.

Ms. Moore said that the BALS proposal has been streamlined and thus it is a leaner type of proposal, as per last year's recommendations and discussions concerning the preparation of proposals. She indicated that one of the reasons for proposing the BALS major is that there are minors and concentrations that are not well used. These programs would become the core of the BALS, and to this core would be added 2 foundation courses and 2 capstone courses, for a total of 4 new courses. The BALS committee looked around the state of Michigan and also at other universities in the USA to see if they have similar programs. They discovered that often their programs were what we would call General Studies for non-traditional students. The BALS program, on the other hand, is envisioned as something else, namely, a program for highly motivated, creative traditional students. It is noted that this is also different from the Independent Major in the College. The BALS program would be an interdisciplinary program, requiring a significant senior thesis developed through two courses. Money has been allotted in the budget for faculty development. Also built into the program is the idea of graduate assistantships for the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) students to help the BALS students. Ms. Moore distributed a handout to show how the MALS program works.

### **The following is a summary of the lengthy and animated Q/A which followed:**

- Andrea Eis: The two minors chosen by the BALS students for their major would be from two intellectually distinct areas. How would that work? Moore: This would be up to the BALS Executive Committee. Eis: Can both of these areas be in the Humanities? Moore: Yes.
- Neils Herold: How would faculty members be recruited? Moore: The CAS would put out a call for a faculty director. The CAS would be able to make it attractive to this person by offering a stipend, and it is hoped that faculty members would respond with interest to apply.
- Herold: What about mentoring? How would this be done? Moore: There would be a discipline-based methods course that would be a good way for students to

- connect with departmental faculty. Students will need to find a mentor professor; their capstone project will be guided by their seminar professor.
- Brian Connery: Both the Honors College and MALS are having problems because of the difficulties involved in getting interdisciplinary faculty. Program directors end up spending too much time getting faculty. Would this be a problem with the BALS program, too? Moore: There is a new faculty position in the budget, and other future new faculty positions are expected as well down the line.
  - Keith Berven: Would LBS 100 and LBS 200 be taught by the same people? It seems to me that there should be some consistency in these courses from one semester to the next. Moore: Any faculty member from the CAS should be able to teach the LBS 100 level course. Navin: I wonder whether it is actually reasonable to expect that any faculty member in the CAS can teach a 100-level interdisciplinary course. Moore: A person would have to do some reading to get prepared. Stewart: The HC is always asking for a new course, but the BALS students would be sitting in classes with majors in regular courses that already exist. LBS 200 would tie them together. Sifonis: Co-teaching is a possibility. Elder: Guest lecturers could also be invited to participate.
  - Dean Purcell: Could the 100/200 level students come from community colleges? Moore: Yes.
  - Jerry Grossman: Are we looking at the April 8, 2009, proposal here? Moore: Yes. Grossman: Then the proposal is not ready yet. The COI concerns have not been addressed. They should be addressed before the Assembly proceeds. For example, the library budget numbers do not add up. Moore: That has been corrected. Grossman: The oral conversation that you had with the AIS president should be included in the proposal. Moore: Why should this have to be put in writing? Grossman: Letters of support should be included as part of the proposal as recommended by COI. Sudol: The proposal was approved by COI and we just need to discuss it here. Herold: But the COI had serious concerns. This proposal should go out to departments for their comments. Grossman: One of the concerns of COI is that 'undecided' students should not be BALS majors. Is that the plan? Sudol: No. Moore: The 'undecided' students should be allowed to do exploring, and they might choose the BALS program. Grossman: The description of LBS 100/200 in the proposal (page 11) does not include mathematics. Was this intentional? Moore: Is Math a natural science? Grossman: No.
  - Barbara Mabee: Part-time and Visiting faculty members are not figured in the budget. In the HC, they are often applying to teach. They should be spelled out in the proposal. Moore: There will be faculty in-load replacements.
  - Brian Connery: The proposal says that it will be an incubator for undecided students. What does this mean? Sudol: There are 800 undecided students so they can start here and take courses. It is possible that they would become BALS majors.
  - Arik Dvir: The budget page indicates that there would be 5 students per year in the BALS program. Isn't this estimate kind of small? Moore: That is the wrong budget. It should say 10 students. Sudol: This number reflects the number of students that are estimated to come to OU because of the BALS program, not the number of students already here who might move into it.

- Grossman: The budget page for faculty does not indicate if there will be support for part-time faculty members replacing faculty in departments that provide faculty for the BALS program. This issue should be addressed in the proposal. Furthermore, it is not good for a department if the full-time faculty members leave to teach courses for another program, and part-time faculty fill in for them in their own department. This leaves fewer courses taught by full-time faculty in their own departments.
- Connery: Until year 3, when a faculty member is hired for the BALS program, there would be a draw on faculty from departments.
- Herold: How would an undecided student be transformed into a motivated creative student for the BALS program? Will the success of the students reside in how they are advised? Moore: LBS 100 Explorations will give them an idea of what we are all about. Then they would start taking courses in the core that interest them. LBS 200 would teach them how to proceed. It is not for everybody.
- Eis: Would students in LBS 100 have to be majors? Moore: No.
- Susan Wood: Do the LBS courses satisfy General Education requirements? Moore: LBS 200 will satisfy the Writing Intensive requirement.
- George Stoffan: Advising will be very important for the success of this program. Stamps: How and when will students devise a personal plan? Moore: The faculty group should take this role. Stamps: This is a true time commitment on the part of the faculty members who would get involved.
- Karen Miller: How will a faculty member in Anthropology, for example, work with a faculty member in Chemistry to mentor the student? It is difficult to work with people in departments other than one's own. Stamps: Yes, the now defunct concentration called Life In Michigan was a great program, but it did not work because of this.
- Dean Purcell: What will the BALS program do as far as opportunities for students upon graduation? Will they get what they need to move on to the next step? Moore: Interdisciplinary PhDs are popular these days.
- Susan Hawkins: Concerning the budget, and the \$6500 graduate assistant stipends for the first year, how many students are in MALS? Moore: 15 students, 1 grad assistant. Miller: Do most of the MALS students have full-time status? These [BALS students] will be FTIACs, and it is not clear how this would work.
- Keith Berven: From a budgetary standpoint, in order for the BALS program to move forward, the students will have to be captured right when they come to OU. However, the BALS students are most likely the people who are undecided when they enter, so there could be a concern that they would also be undecided as to whether they would want to do the BALS or not.
- Arik Dvir: Has there been a survey to indicate whether this type of program would be filling a need? Moore: We are relying on Senate recommendations.
- Linda Schweitzer: How popular is this type of program at other universities? Stewart: The University of Texas, Arlington, has 700 students.
- Brian Connery: The section on Page five has no follow-up. What are the criteria to become a BALS student? Moore: We did not want to impose this. Connery: I am not reassured, and I think there should be criteria.

- Jerry Grossman: For the second reading of the BALS proposal, what can the Assembly expect to see? Will there be letters of support? From Julie-Thompson Klein as recommended by COI, for instance? Will there be numbers? We should be approving a proposal that has numbers that add up.
- Richard Stamps: I like the concept of the BALS, but it should be a good strong proposal as it goes forward through the process.
- Susan Hawkins: There are concerns about the MALS program and whether it has a curriculum with integrity. Fewer faculty members have been able to teach a full course. We should not have cross-listing of undergraduate/graduate courses. Also, it is very difficult for departments to release faculty members because they are needed in their own departments and the replacement issue is a concern.
- Dikka Berven: Regarding the faculty member(s) that would be hired into the BALS program, in what department(s) would these faculty members be reviewed for tenure? Sudol: They would be anchored in some department in the CAS. Stamps: This issue reminds me of the Area Studies program when it was a concern whether a faculty member should be reviewed in one department, both departments, or neither.

Dean Sudol: It is getting late and we are out of time. We will continue the discussion next time.

## **11. Good and Welfare**

Dean Sudol said that a proposal is in the works for a program that would make it possible for students to get a degree in three years.

Jerry Grossman asked if there were updates on new faculty hires in the CAS. Dean Sudol said that there had been 40 requests made by departments, but there is no budget yet. Every department has needs. Credit hours delivered by a department are an important factor with regard to allotment of faculty positions.

## **12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dikka Berven

